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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Shepherd who neither slumbers nor sleeps, as we labor this weekend, we desire You to be near to guide us with Your wisdom and love. Use our law-makers as instruments of Your providence, leading them beside still waters, restoring their energy and bringing them to Your desired destination. Give them the stature to see, above the walls of prideful opinions, the path to the greatest good. Lord, sustain them with Your strength, preserve them with Your grace, instruct them with Your wisdom, and protect them with Your power. As an intentional act of will, may they commit to You everything they think, say, and do today. We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEAHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING SENATOR LEAHY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on this Saturday, the Senate, in one of its unusual sessions, it is very good to see one of the more senior Members of the Senate presiding over the Senate. A lot of presiding is left to the more junior Members. It is indicative of the teamwork of the Senator from Vermont, one of the most senior Members of the Senate, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and someone who is always there when there is a need for something to be done, as it is today to open the Senate.

I have such fond memories of my friend from Vermont. I can remember

the first time we met. We were in Florida. I was running for the Senate. It was 1986 and the Senator from Vermont was running for reelection, even then a senior Member of the Senate.

Even though the two of us are almost twins as far as our age goes, the Senator from Vermont has a significant amount of seniority, although he never uses that in any way other than to work for the betterment of the people of Vermont—and I say that seriously. We had a conversation in the cloakroom today, and we were not talking about ball games last night, we were talking about problems of the people of Vermont, things the distinguished president today indicated he thought could help a little for the State of Vermont. I am very grateful the Senator is here today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590. Under a previous agreement, the debate will continue with alternating hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the majority controlling the first hour. The time from 6 to 6:30 in the evening will be under the control of the majority; 6:30 until 7:15 p.m. will be under the control of the Republican side; from 7:15 to 7:30 the majority will control that time; the time from 7:30 to 8 will be for the two leaders, with Senator MCCONNELL controlling the first 15 minutes. At 8 p.m. tonight, the Senate will proceed to a rollover vote on the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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